cargo complex" at Hyderabad airport to AP State Trading Corporation it being in the business of handling Imports and Exports of Air Cargo Complex at Hyderabad since 1986;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to the request;

(c) if so, by when the new perishable cargo complex would be entrusted to AP State Trading Corporation; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise has approved custodianship for the Centre for Perishable Cargo to Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation (APSTC) at Hyderabad International Airport w.e.f. 14.8.2001.

(c) and (d) The Centre for Perishable Cargo was handed over to M/s. Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation by Airports Authority of India at Hyderabad airport on 7th June, 2001.

Fuel bill of Indian Airlines

1353. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the annual fuel bill of Indian Airlines;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has asked for a reduction in import duties and taxes on ATF;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government will subsidise the fuel bill of Indian Airlines; and

(e) if so, the details of plans in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) The annual fuel cost of Indian Airlines including Alliance Air is estimated at Rs. 1300 crores at the ATF price prevailaing in November, 2002.

(b) Indian Airlines have sought reduction in the rates of Sales Tax being charged on ATF by different State Governments.

(c) to (e) While there is no proposal to subsidise the fuel costs, the question of reducing the Sales Tax on ATF falls within the purview of the State Governments and shall have to be considered by them.